

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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R 041410Z AUG 76  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8973  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO CINCLANT  
USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA

UNCLASSIFIED USNATO 4324

SECDEF FOR ISA, MR. MR. MILLER AND COMPTROLLER, MR. KRAFT

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MARR NATO  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF NATO MILITARY BUDGET COMMITTEE (MBC) TO UNITED  
STATES IN SEPTEMBER 1976

REFS: A) STATE 187191, DTG 232358Z JUL 76  
B) USNATO 3728, DTG 011720Z JUL 76

SUMMARY: MILITARY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(MBC) HAS POSTPONED ITS NATO BUDGET TRIP TO SACLANT AND  
REGRETFULLY DECLINES INVITATION TO VISIT OTHER US FACILITIES  
IN SEPTEMBER 1976, BECAUSE THE INVITATION ARRIVED TOO LATE  
TO PERMIT NECESSARY MBC PLANNING. WE PROPOSE CONSIDERA-  
TION OF INCLUDING A LARGER NUMBER OF US MILITARY FACILITIES  
WHEN THE MBC VISITS SACLANT OFFICIALLY DURING THE SPRING OF  
1977. ACTION REQUESTED: SECDEF CANCEL CURRENT ARRANGE-  
MENTS IN REF A, AND CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF A MORE  
COMPREHENSIVE VISIT TO US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS FOR THE  
MBC NEXT SPRING. END SUMMARY.

1. THE COMMITTEE HAS REGRETFULLY DECLINED THE SEPTEMBER  
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INVITATION TO VISIT US FACILITIES (REF A). THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
APPRECIATE US EFFORTS TO ARRANGE SEPTEMBER VISIT.

2. THE MBC HAD TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ITS OFFICIAL NATO

BUDGET SCREENING AT SACLANT IN SEPTEMBER, SUBJECT TO AN ANTICIPATED US INVITATION TO VISIT OTHER NON-NATO MILITARY FACILITIES ELSEWHERE IN THE US AND PROVIDED THAT THE INVITATION AND AN ITINERARY WERE AVAILABLE BY 16 JULY. SINCE THE US REP WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A FIRM PROPOSAL BY THAT DATE, THE COMMITTEE ASKED THAT US AUTHROITIES BE ASKED TO CANCEL ITS VISIT PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER, AND THAT THE SACLANT BUDGET VISIT BE POSTPONED.

3. THERE IS GREAT INTEREST BY THE MBC IN VISITING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE US AS A BASIS FOR COMPARISON WITH THE FACILITIES BEING DEVELOPED IN NATO. IT HAS BEEN HOST COUNTRY PRACTICE, WHEN THE MBC MAKES ITS NORMAL NATO BUDGET VISITS TO NATO HEADQUARTERS IN A COUNTRY, TO INVITE THE COMMITTEE TO VISIT A NUMBER OF BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, AGENCIES AND INSTALLATIONS FOR FAMILIARIZATION WITH HOST COUNTRY METHODS, POLICIES AND STANDARDS. WE HOPE THAT SUCH A VISIT TO THE US CAN BE ARRANGED FOR THE MBC EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND THAT IT CAN INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER OF US NATIONAL FACILITIES.

4. COMMITTEE PLANS FOR 1977 ARE STILL TENTATIVEM REQUEST CONSIDERATION BY GIVEN TO EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO COINCIDE WITH POSSIBLE VISIT TO SACLANT DURING MARCH-MAY 1977. STREATOR

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